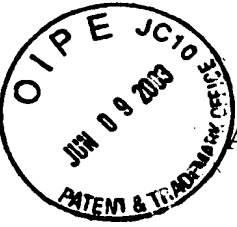


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



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Group No.: 3761

Examiner: Reichle, K.

Serial No.: 10/010,965

Filing Date: 07 December 2001

Title: PRODUCT SEAL OF DISSIMILAR
MATERIALS

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This communication is in response to the Office Action dated 06 May
2003.

I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on

06 June 2003

06 June 03
Date

Eric Kruschke
Signature

Serial No.: 10/010,965

The Examiner requires Applicants to elect one of the following inventions pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 121 for examination:

- I. Claims 1-12 drawn to an article with at least one manually tearable passive bond;
- II. Claims 13-22 drawn to an absorbent article with a seam;
- III. Claims 23-33 drawn to an absorbent article with a specific passive bonded seam; and
- IV. Claims 34-39 drawn to a convertible article.

The Examiner alleges that the inventions are distinct because the inventions are related as combination and subcombination as set forth at paragraphs 2-4 of the Office Action.

Applicants hereby elect Group I, Claims 1-12, drawn to an article with at least one manually tearable passive bond for prosecution on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,



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